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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

11

REGULAR MEETING

12

AUGUST 6, 2009

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1 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call the meeting to  
2 order. I appreciate all of you being here tonight.  
3 It's a nice day outside, good crowd tonight. I'd  
4 like to have a few more. Is everybody doing good  
5 this week?

6 MR. LOWERY: We're going to have to  
7 have a fight if we're going to have a bigger crowd.

8 MR. RUMLEY: No. I think I'm going to  
9 have to change and start bringing some Krystals or  
10 something instead of the donuts and the cookies. I  
11 don't know. The donuts work pretty well.

12 At this time though I would like to ask  
13 Robert to lead us in prayer and also the Pledge of  
14 Allegiance immediately following.

15 (Thereupon, the invocation and  
16 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

17 MR. RUMLEY: This is the regularly  
18 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission  
19 which takes place at the same time on the first  
20 Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this  
21 meeting was given in our legal organ of the Dade  
22 County Sentinel and has been posted in the hallway  
23 of the Administrative Building. At this time I need  
24 a roll call. Mr. Lowery?

25 MR. LOWERY: Here.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

2 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

4 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

6 MR. GOFF: Here.

7 MR. RUMLEY: And I am present. Thank  
8 you. At this time I'll have our finance officer and  
9 clerk read the consent agenda and afterwards, I  
10 would entertain a proposal to approve. Don?

11 MR. TOWNSEND: On the consent agenda we  
12 have approval of the previous minutes of the  
13 meetings and public hearings, the approval of  
14 S.P.L.O.S.T purchases for West Brow Fire Department,  
15 Communication and Electronics, Incorporated, eight  
16 new pagers at an expense of \$3,112, and also  
17 approval of S.P.L.O.S.T items for Phase II plans  
18 being made by Arcadis, work authorization number 19  
19 at 50 percent of the project complete at an expense  
20 of \$34,875.

21 We have enhanced 911 bidding on voice  
22 over internet communications, a resolution approving  
23 this. That is R36-09, a resolution imposing  
24 enhanced 911 charge on voice over internet protocol,  
25 also known as VOIP, connections within Dade County,

1 Georgia, at an expense of \$1.50 per month for  
2 wireless connection. Resolution R13-07 was reviewed  
3 and shall remain in effect. Wireless -- let's see,  
4 USDA --

5 MR. RUMLEY: Do you want to borrow my  
6 glasses, Don?

7 MR. TOWNSEND: It's about that time.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Your arm is not quite long  
9 enough there.

10 MR. TOWNSEND: Resolution R33-09, home  
11 rule amending fiscal year. That will be changing  
12 our fiscal year from December 31st -- ending  
13 December 31st I should say to ending June 30th and  
14 beginning July 1st each year and that will begin  
15 January 1st, 2010, through June 30th, 2010. And  
16 then also USDA NRCS agreement under 65-4310-9-384  
17 for a period to begin effective immediately through  
18 September 30, 2010.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Don. Any  
20 questions pertaining to that consent agenda? The  
21 reading of the minutes of our previous minutes of  
22 the regular meeting will not required since all  
23 Commissioners have been furnished with copies as we  
24 discussed before at our work session. Minutes are  
25 public record and available for review in the county

1 executive's office. The minutes are included in the  
2 consent agenda. At this time do I hear a motion to  
3 approve the consent agenda?

4 MR. GOFF: I make a motion to approve  
5 the consent agenda.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Do I have a second?

7 MR. LOWERY: Second.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

9 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

11 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

12 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

13 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

15 MR. GOFF: Yes.

16 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.  
17 Thank you very much.

18 Okay. At this time we'll start with  
19 Mr. Cervelli with our report, our monthly report.

20 MR. CERVELLI: Well, thank you.

21 MR. RUMLEY: I give you two-and-a-half  
22 minutes, Peter.

23 MR. CERVELLI: I'll try. Some of  
24 you -- many of you might know my wife had an  
25 accident last week in West Brow and I wanted just to

1       thank the first responders at West Brow that came  
2       out. They were -- they got there before I did for  
3       sure. They were very caring. They were young men.  
4       They were all young men. At least they appeared  
5       young to me and they did a wonderful job prior to  
6       the actual ambulance showing up and so I just want  
7       to thank the West Brow volunteers, those kids -- and  
8       they were kids. For me they were kids. They did a  
9       great job and the sheriff's department as well and  
10      the state patrol. They all did a good job, but  
11      especially the volunteers of West Brow. They were  
12      there first and did a nice job. So thank you, West  
13      Brow.

14                   The other thing I would like to talk  
15      about -- and that doesn't count toward my  
16      two-and-a-half minutes.

17                   MR. RUMLEY: That's already a  
18      minute-and-a-half.

19                   MR. CERVELLI: The Flintstone Community  
20      has had a sewer problem, and John Deffenbaugh knows  
21      this, probably for at least a decade. We are  
22      zeroing in on trying to solve that problem. We're  
23      very close. There are a number of federal grants  
24      that we're going after that we are optimistic about.  
25      And based on what we know, if all of this does

1 occur, and we're optimistic it will. I can't  
2 guarantee that in fact we'll get that. I think it's  
3 about \$300,000 in grant money, which will go a long  
4 way to solving this problem. But with Covenant  
5 College's help, with the help of Lookout Mountain,  
6 Georgia, the City of Lookout Mountain, Georgia, with  
7 the Dade County Water and Sewer Authority, we've got  
8 everybody working together on this and so I can't  
9 tell you it's a done deal, but it's about as close  
10 as it's ever been, based upon what I know, to  
11 solving their problem for the Flintstone Community.

12 A few words on the budget, as I always  
13 do. We're about 58 percent of the way into the  
14 year. Our revenues are about 54.5 percent. It's  
15 the first time the revenues have actually been less  
16 than a percentage of the year. Not surprising given  
17 that we collect so much of our revenue at the end of  
18 the year. It looks like we're always doing great  
19 for the first six, seven months of the year. We're  
20 always ahead of the curve. Well, it's coming home  
21 to roost now that we're actually starting to fall  
22 behind in our revenue collections just because  
23 that's the reality of it.

24 Our expenses, people are controlling  
25 their expenses very well. For the most part, we're



1 doing excellent. It's 55 percent in terms of our  
2 expense budget. We're at 58 percent of the year, so  
3 people are living up to their budget commitments.  
4 The thing that's really concerning to us right now  
5 is our local option sales tax revenue. It took a  
6 nose dive in this month. It dropped 47 percent from  
7 what we collected in June. Excuse me. It's 26  
8 percent from what we collected in June and we're off  
9 47 percent from what we collected last year for the  
10 same month.

11           It's very difficult to budget when  
12 there's no pattern to these numbers and we're going  
13 through some very heavy number crunching right now  
14 to try and understand how we can forecast where we  
15 are going to be at the end of the year and that's  
16 very realtime work and Don has really been a yeoman  
17 in trying to get this done in addition to some of  
18 the other things he's got to do for this meeting.  
19 So more to come, but July was extremely  
20 disappointing in terms of sales tax. We only  
21 collected \$119,000. We had collected \$229,000 last  
22 year the same month. July is always a great month.  
23 It wasn't this time. There may be some problems in  
24 Atlanta. We're going to have to try and figure that  
25 out, too, whether their collection process is



1 working, so more to come on the budget, but --

2 MR. RUMLEY: There's problems in  
3 Atlanta all right, in more ways than one.

4 MR. CERVELLI: That's all I'm going to  
5 say on the budget. If you look at the right-of-way,  
6 you've all seen the grass growing. If there's a  
7 dangerous location, please call us. We'll get the  
8 State or the County folks to come out and cut the  
9 grass. Please don't hesitate to do that.

10 And my only final thing I want to say,  
11 this is the longest yard sale weekend. If you're  
12 going to look for a bargain, I guess it's the time  
13 to do it, but also be careful of the traffic. Those  
14 of you folks that live up there or drive on that  
15 road know that you'll be heading down the highway  
16 and all of a sudden, there's a lineup of cars just  
17 looking at some good bargains, I guess. So have  
18 fun, but be careful. That's all.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Peter. Robert?

20 MR. GOFF: Ditto on his. I want to  
21 first of all mention something that's taking place  
22 tomorrow evening. I missed an opportunity last  
23 month to bring up something that was coming, but at  
24 R Haven tomorrow evening at 7:00 there is the men in  
25 pink and I understand real men wear pink and are

1 proud of it, but this -- seriously, it is for the  
2 breast cancer awareness. There's a \$5 charge to get  
3 in. It's all for fun and recreation and a good  
4 time. Just bring chairs and have a good time and  
5 there will be concessions available at the  
6 concession stands.

7 But go out and support things going on  
8 in the community if you have an opportunity. I  
9 myself have something else totally unrelated, but  
10 maybe Ms. Patty will appreciate it. Of course,  
11 school starts tomorrow and with school comes  
12 football and that's kind of one of my passions and I  
13 appreciate the two commissioners here on the ends  
14 with their ties, but Dade County High School will  
15 have a scrimmage tomorrow night. The varsity  
16 football team is getting up and going. So support  
17 the county in any way you can. You'll find places.

18 Again, I visited the restrooms today,  
19 the new restrooms in the soccer fields. My name is  
20 still not up there, but I'm sure the plaque is being  
21 made.

22 MR. RUMLEY: He is not crowing, Robin.  
23 He is not crowing.

24 MR. GOFF: If you ever want to know  
25 where that come from, it come from a toilet I built

1 in Romania if you want to know what this is all  
2 about. But they were putting in the power today.  
3 The power company had to work with the DOT to cross  
4 the road and put in the power lines, but the power  
5 is going in today, hopefully by the first of the  
6 week, maybe even tomorrow it will be operational.  
7 It is now, but the power has to be there for the  
8 pump, so that's a step forward because the rec  
9 league football is about to start or already started  
10 practicing as well as soccer sign-ups are going on.  
11 They have one more soccer and I asked David today  
12 how many kids were involved. I think there's 200  
13 and something in soccer alone. So just think of the  
14 numbers of kids that are being benefited from that  
15 and that's why this facility is so important to this  
16 county.

17 And I want to then take just a moment  
18 to thank the County for -- the County Road Crew for  
19 going down to the South Dade Community Center doing  
20 a lot of much needed cleaning around it. It really  
21 looked good and hope that everybody enjoys that.  
22 And with that, they cleaned off again the old ball  
23 field, got a lot of the bushes and trash that had  
24 grown up around it, trying again in the coming year,  
25 if money allows, and just a -- even a minimum of

1     what we might need to bring some of these things  
2     back to the community, at least have a place.  
3     Whether they choose to use it or not, but to have a  
4     ball field back in some of the communities where  
5     they can stay in the community and practice without  
6     having to come to Trenton to the four fields or  
7     whatever. So I would like to thank them.

8             Just keep in mind things are going on  
9     in our community. I know that we've heard much  
10    about it over the last few months. The Wild Moon  
11    Resort, they're planning some things and trying to  
12    work and, of course, we're all hoping they succeed  
13    in what they do. But as you see things coming into  
14    the community and you have an opportunity wherever  
15    they are in the community, go and try to support  
16    those things because that's what it's all about.  
17    That's what keeps us ticking.

18            The last thing I would like to say  
19    since my distinguished commissioner to my left would  
20    not mention that Charlie Browning is finally a  
21    grandpa. Now, I want to go on record -- I want to  
22    go on record and say something that has not been  
23    said on local TV. Cathy, though she doesn't look  
24    like it, she's still cute as a button, but she's a  
25    grandmother, too. That's her grandchild, too. So

1       congratulations to the Brownings.

2               MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Robert.  
3       Scottie?

4               MR. PITTMAN: I ain't got anything.

5               MR. LOWERY: I take that promise. We  
6       was going to go first this time.

7               MR. PITTMAN: I had everything wrote  
8       down Robert said and he took it away from me.

9               MR. GOFF: Thank you for leaving your  
10      notes laying around.

11              MR. PITTMAN: Yeah. The resale of  
12      cardboard, the recycle, it's all increasing. That's  
13      a good thing. It's been way down.

14              MR. RUMLEY: Is it? Billy reported  
15      today.

16              MR. PITTMAN: We've been stockpiling  
17      some of the aluminum and cardboard. Billy is doing  
18      good down there, so that's about it in the transfer  
19      station.

20              MR. LOWERY: Well, since Robert got on  
21      Peter a little bit, I've got to brag on Peter  
22      because he told me something today. He's gone  
23      country, Peter has. He told me, he said, now, don't  
24      let that get your goat. I bragged on him right  
25      then. Then tonight he sat there and said coming

1 home to roost. He's going country.

2 MR. CERVELLI: Thank you for that.

3 MR. GOFF: Somebody brought him some  
4 okra, too, and he took it.

5 MR. LOWERY: I did have -- Billy and  
6 them has helped us at the North Dade Community  
7 Center several times, too, when we had a water line  
8 that we had to put in, a brand new water line. I  
9 know Ted came down and helped us with that, too, in  
10 the voting precincts. We do appreciate everything  
11 they do for us. We would like to get the ball  
12 fields. That's one of the things we talked about  
13 like on Sand Mountain. Those people in New Home are  
14 trying to get the community center and the ball  
15 fields built.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Even North Dade, that's  
17 something with the community center, but get that  
18 filled back in for a practice field because it's  
19 amazing the kids that we've got in this county here.  
20 We had 240 kids at soccer. That's unbelievable.

21 MR. LOWERY: But I went by the Senior  
22 Building. I went by Robert's restroom, but I wasn't  
23 going to -- it is a nice facility. It's what we  
24 need. I went by the Senior Building. The Senior  
25 Building -- Annette Cash does a real fine job down

1 there keeping that building up and clean. I found  
2 very little wrong with it. She called me today  
3 because she wasn't there and wanted to know what I  
4 thought about it. I told her there were some of the  
5 chairs that needed to be replaced, but we're doing  
6 what we can with the money we have. Everybody is  
7 doing that. So I would like to brag on her.

8 I know my family likes to rent the  
9 Senior Building to have functions and it really  
10 makes you feel good when you're there and relatives  
11 from other counties and this county brag on what a  
12 nice facility we have. So it's nice that it's being  
13 kept up.

14 The last thing I have is the court  
15 facility, the bids went out. We actually got some  
16 of the bids open and I'll let Ted go into it a  
17 little deeper later on, but it kind of reminds me of  
18 the guy that said, you know, sometimes it's better  
19 to be lucky than good because our bids came in about  
20 a million two less than what they were projected  
21 just a little over a year ago. So I'll let Ted  
22 follow up on that if he wants to. I believe that's  
23 all I have.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you. It's  
25 been a busy month. Maybe not work wise, but



1 mentally. I've had a lot going on. We all have,  
2 trying to get the courthouse ready to go. I hoped  
3 they would be started actually working by now. But  
4 for some of you that got here late, we did open the  
5 bids the other day. We've got two bidders that  
6 actually were real close to tying and right now  
7 they're reviewing the Phase II plans and hopefully  
8 by Monday we'll have a bid to tie Phase II and I  
9 together and that bottom number will decide who we  
10 go with.

11 We're not only looking at the bottom  
12 number. Really we're looking at local people that  
13 actually will be working on the project. People  
14 that -- the people that have bid, they're kind of  
15 on -- both of them, you know, are hometown boys,  
16 hometown men. One of the fellows lives in Slygo  
17 there that owns J&J Construction in Chattanooga.  
18 He's a partial owner in it and also Bruce Case owns  
19 Construction Consultants. He was raised here in  
20 Trenton. So out of all the bids we got, at least we  
21 got two bids that are home -- actually from Dade  
22 County. We'll keep you up on that. We're going to  
23 call a special meeting Monday -- I mean, probably  
24 Tuesday or Wednesday.

25 Another thing that's really been --

1 we've been working on almost day and night, as you  
2 heard, we are changing our fiscal year, so we are --  
3 we've been working on all of the elected officials,  
4 everyone involved working on the budget. That's  
5 always not a good time whenever you do it because  
6 you've got -- that's when you have to a lot of times  
7 look people straight in the eye and say you can't  
8 have it. That's when you've got to decide whether  
9 you want it, whether you really need it or if you  
10 just want it. So we're working on it. Don, myself,  
11 Peter, all of us have really been involved. It's  
12 just a time-consuming thing and it's even more so  
13 now because we were just working on a six-month  
14 budget for next year, January until June.

15           That's really a -- it may not sound  
16 that -- that stressful, but you -- when you've got  
17 an elected official -- I found this out years ago,  
18 but even more so now. They are an elected official  
19 or elected officer. For instance, the sheriff. You  
20 know, he was elected by you people to do a job, but  
21 we're elected to do our job and our job is actually  
22 to not control him by any means, but we are here  
23 to -- I don't want to step on anybody's feet. We're  
24 here to ensure you that we control the money that he  
25 spends, not only him, but all of his officers and

1 that sometimes is -- it's really a hard task,  
2 especially when we're in a position now that  
3 revenues are so low.

4 But I have to say one thing, all the  
5 elected officials we met with, we've been -- well,  
6 we covered all of them, Don, right? We've really  
7 right down on -- they've really been understanding.  
8 of course, we're not finished yet because this is  
9 kind of what you would call round one. When we  
10 actually plug these numbers in, I think we're going  
11 to be real close, but there's a possibility we're  
12 going to go back and really shave -- I used to say  
13 shave the fat off. We've already cut quite a bit,  
14 but if we have to fine tune this thing, we will  
15 because as you notice, we did not increase the  
16 milage rate. And so that's down to actually pull  
17 this budget together and balance it.

18 But anyway, that's pretty much the  
19 month -- the month's work that we've been doing  
20 here, so I do appreciate my Commissioners. They're  
21 good people. I don't care if people -- you know,  
22 some people feel that, you know, we need to argue  
23 every once in a while. Let me tell you we do. We  
24 don't agree. I can promise you, but we just  
25 don't -- when we come in these meetings, we try

1 to -- we don't always agree, so don't think that  
2 everything is just rosy, you know. We get along and  
3 we're here to do a job. We hope that we make you  
4 proud doing it. I've said enough. I could go on.  
5 I know, Peter, go ahead.

6 MR. CERVELLI: That was more than  
7 two-and-a-half minutes.

8 MR. RUMLEY: But anyway, we'll move on.  
9 I do want you to know that all of us, not just  
10 myself, we're open. We do answer our phones. Lamar  
11 and Scottie, they do work. If you call them during  
12 the day, I guarantee you they will call you back.  
13 Same thing with Peter. If they don't, come to me.  
14 I'll take care of it. I'm not their boss, but I  
15 guarantee you I can get on them. They'll tell you  
16 that. I've never had to do that or nothing, but  
17 we're here for you.

18 We'll move on to appearances. Do we  
19 have a representative from the City of Trenton,  
20 Mr. Harris or anyone tonight? Things must be pretty  
21 smooth in the City. I'm glad of that. Fred  
22 Stephens, Industrial Development Authority, is he  
23 here tonight? Okay. Move down to monthly, the  
24 monthly finance report with Don Townsend, county  
25 finance officer.

1 MR. TOWNSEND: We have in the general  
2 fund 350,291; federal asset fund representing U.S.  
3 Treasury, 17,721; special sheriff's fund, 10,291;  
4 drug abuse education fund, 20,506; supplemental  
5 juvenile services fund, 14,174; victim assistance  
6 fund, 2,659; jail fund, 30,594; federal asset fund  
7 representing the Department of Justice, 2,253 and  
8 payroll account, 126,416. Those are balances as of  
9 July 31<sup>st</sup>.

10 Also in the S.P.L.O.S.T, principal and  
11 interest, the old -- we still have the old and the  
12 new to talk about. The old total P&I, which is  
13 principal and interest fund balance is \$2,425,695  
14 and the capital bond fund balance, 435,553. Those  
15 funds -- we have one more check coming in for the  
16 month of August. We should get that around  
17 August 30<sup>th</sup> and that will be the final payment due  
18 to the County for the old S.P.L.O.S.T. Then we'll  
19 start collection in our treasury for the new  
20 S.P.L.O.S.T, the 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T.

21 At the merchant level, that has already  
22 taken place, but the Department of Revenue holds  
23 those funds for the 60 days. In the new  
24 S.P.L.O.S.T, in the construction account, total  
25 construction funds available is \$2,548,159. And we

1 also have a proceeds account with a balance of \$165.

2 Peter did an excellent job earlier.

3 Actually, he stole the show, so if you were  
4 listening a while ago, the moneys for the actuals  
5 for 7/31, July 31<sup>st</sup>, \$368,502. That's for the  
6 month of July. For year-to-date revenues, we have  
7 collected \$4,679,504. That is a little short of our  
8 budgeted year-to-date figure, so as he indicated  
9 earlier, this is the first time this year that  
10 actually revenues have come in a little short at  
11 54.7. For the year, the budget attainment at this  
12 point is 58.33 percent with seven months behind us.

13 Expenses for the month, \$734,999 and  
14 for year-to-date \$4,624,321. Budget though  
15 4,982,521. So again, we are under budget as far as  
16 expenses, but because the revenues are starting to  
17 dry up and that traditionally happens in the summer,  
18 it's going to be a little more challenging paying  
19 the bills here in the next 30 to 60 days, but we  
20 will -- hopefully we will make it.

21 Two years ago we looked at a line of  
22 credit called a tax anticipation note in the month  
23 of June. Last year I believe we did that in July.  
24 It is August. We have not had to do that yet.  
25 We're hopeful we won't -- we're really going to be



1 studying this in the next ten days or so. So we're  
2 definitely -- if something changes, we'll bring that  
3 up in a special-called meeting if need be or  
4 definitely by September, but at this point, we're  
5 very hopeful we won't have to. As I said before,  
6 Peter really summed it up great.

7 MR. LOWERY: I've got a question. On  
8 the 2004 S.P.L.O.S.T funds remaining, the 2,425,000  
9 we still have another bond payment on that, correct?

10 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, that is correct.

11 MR. LOWERY: How much?

12 MR. TOWNSEND: Out of the -- what  
13 Commissioner Lowery is talking about, the current  
14 old S.P.L.O.S.T, we call it, we have a balance of  
15 2,425,695, but from that, we do have to pay a final  
16 bond payment of \$1,244,956. We also have a  
17 liability for what we've collected since last year  
18 to pay the City of Trenton their final payment as  
19 well. We should be able to do both of those, if not  
20 the last day of the month, hopefully the very first  
21 part of September. The bonds are not due. I  
22 believe they're not due until October 1<sup>st</sup>. I  
23 believe it's November 1<sup>st</sup>, but we should be able  
24 to go ahead and get that out of the way.

25 MR. LOWERY: Do you have any idea what



1 Trenton's part still is?

2 MR. TOWNSEND: They're, I think as of  
3 this last collection, around 352,348. It may go up  
4 just a little bit, but around 350,000.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions for  
6 Mr. Townsend? I appreciate it, Don. Good job.

7 As Don said, we're really -- and we  
8 have all year. We're really watching our spending.  
9 As I said before, the other elected officials, pat  
10 them on the back. They're really -- they're living  
11 within their means doing the budget, but the next  
12 few months from now until October and November until  
13 our taxes start coming back in, there is still a  
14 possibility of some furloughs. That's not out of  
15 the question, believe me. We'll make that decision  
16 pretty quickly, pretty soon because you never wait  
17 until you get in a situation and then do it. You  
18 look ahead. That's the way I was and the way the  
19 rest of us are. So we're going to address this  
20 pretty soon because that last check we got, that  
21 really tells you that when you're 50 percent less or  
22 cut in half from the same month last year, that  
23 shows you there's something -- you know, it's real.

24 So, you know, don't be surprised if you  
25 look -- if you read in the paper between now and

1 even next month, the next meeting that we've got --  
2 we're working on a furlough plan. Not only that.  
3 There's other things we're working on that we can  
4 cut just like many of the other counties around. So  
5 don't be surprised of that. It's by far not smooth  
6 sailing on through the first of the year, but it  
7 really is not looking really that bad.

8 If there's no further questions, I  
9 entertain a motion to approve the monthly financial  
10 investment statement. Do I hear a motion?

11 MR. LOWERY: I'll make that motion.

12 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I  
13 hear a second?

14 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Mr. Lowery?

16 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

18 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

22 MR. GOFF: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.

24 Thank you.

25 Okay. Legal matters, we have none.

1 Unfinished business? Ms. Priest?

2 MR. CERVELLI: Just --

3 MR. RUMLEY: I'm sorry.

4 MR. CERVELLI: We have a case coming up  
5 this month, do we not?

6 MR. ROGERS: That's right. On the  
7 27<sup>th</sup>, I think, is the Rex Blevins and -- the case  
8 is still scheduled on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

9 MR. CERVELLI: 9:00 in Superior Court?

10 MR. ROGERS: That's right.

11 MR. RUMLEY: That is open; is that  
12 right?

13 MR. ROGERS: Yes, it is.

14 MR. RUMLEY: What they're talking about  
15 is a lawsuit between Rex Blevins and Christina  
16 Holmes pertaining to the suit against the County.  
17 The date is when now?

18 MR. ROGERS: The 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. I  
19 struggle with that. I think it's the 27<sup>th</sup>.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Evan can probably update  
21 you. It's at 9:00, so if you have some free time,  
22 it might be interesting to listen to that. It may  
23 be resolved. It's been lingering on for several  
24 years now. The County, I know we've spent quite a  
25 bit of money just on legal fees.

1 Unfinished business, we have -- okay.

2 Ms. Priest, do you want to come up? Ms. Patty

3 Priest. She's our school superintendent. As I

4 mentioned earlier, they've been at a meeting tonight

5 as we were having ours.

6 MS. PRIEST: I have a loud voice. You

7 can probably hear me. We are setting our milage

8 rate at 12.42, which is the same as last year.

9 Again, we're also having financial difficulties as

10 some of you certainly know. Just a few weeks ago we

11 learned we were being cut \$601,000 before

12 December 31<sup>st</sup>. And in June, latter part of June

13 at the end of our fiscal year, we were cut over

14 \$500,000. So within the last three months we've

15 been cut about a million dollars from the State. So

16 I understand the plight of county government as

17 well.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Those cuts will take

19 effect in 2010 or is this for --

20 MS. PRIEST: That's for this coming

21 year. This coming year we will be cut the 601,000

22 before December 31st. Of course, that's half of our

23 budget year with promise for more cuts down the

24 line. We have asked our teachers to take three

25 reduction in annual work schedule days. So it's

1 difficult at this point in time. We know it's  
2 difficult for people, for the citizenry of Dade  
3 County also and that's the reason we're tightening  
4 our belt every way we know to tighten it and that's  
5 the reason for the same milage rate that we've had  
6 in the past. I have copies of the documents here, I  
7 guess, for the chairman. I'll be glad to answer any  
8 questions or --

9 MR. CERVELLI: I read in the paper that  
10 your reserve balance is going to be \$400,000. Is  
11 that the end of this year?

12 MS. PRIEST: Yes.

13 MR. CERVELLI: December 31<sup>st</sup>?

14 MS. PRIEST: No. Our year ends  
15 June 30<sup>th</sup>. We anticipated -- I guess our school  
16 board was really forward thinking a few years ago  
17 because when we had the reassessment, equalization  
18 money goes down for the school system when you have  
19 a reassessment, so our board really planned for  
20 that. But because the economic downturn across the  
21 state is so severe though, last year we took a  
22 two percent cut with a promise of a three percent  
23 cut for this year out of our QBE money, which is the  
24 main source of our funding from the State. In  
25 addition to that three percent cut that we got that

1 we knew we were going to get last year, we're  
2 getting an additional three percent cut with most of  
3 our QBE money and even five percent in some of the  
4 categorical grants. So that's our \$601,000. Our  
5 stimulus money that we're going to get that we can't  
6 use to supplement. In other words, if you used  
7 state money last year to purchase something or pay a  
8 salary, you can't use this new federal money to do  
9 that. So there are really lots of parameters, I  
10 guess, put on that federal money. So that's -- it  
11 will help us some, but not that much. Yes, we  
12 anticipate at this point in time to have a \$400,000  
13 balance and our payroll is a million dollars a  
14 month.

15 MR. RUMLEY: A million dollars a month.  
16 I don't know if you heard that or not. That's what  
17 the school board, that's their payroll, right around  
18 a million dollars a month.

19 MS. PRIEST: I'll be glad to answer any  
20 questions if I can.

21 MR. RUMLEY: I would like to read this  
22 letter Ms. Priest presented to us. This is to  
23 inform you that the Dade County Board of Education  
24 set a tax levy at 12.42 mil for maintenance and  
25 operation. This should mean a collection of

1 \$5,277,569 for the Board of Education and  
2 \$131,939.23 for the two-and-a-half percent  
3 commission that the Tax Commissioner is entitled for  
4 the collection of school taxes. This is a total  
5 figure of \$5,145,629.77. Sincerely, Patty Priest,  
6 superintendent of Dade County Schools, and also  
7 signed by Carolyn Bradford, board chairman. We  
8 appreciate it. Any other questions before she sits  
9 down?

10 MS. PRIEST: Thank you.

11 MR. RUMLEY: At this time I'll  
12 entertain a motion to approve or disapprove. Do you  
13 have a choice?

14 MR. CERVELLI: I don't think we have  
15 that option.

16 MR. LOWERY: We don't have a choice.

17 MR. CERVELLI: I'll make a motion to  
18 approve the milage rate as presented by the school  
19 board.

20 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I  
21 hear a second.

22 MR. GOFF: I'll second.

23 MR. RUMLEY: We have a second. Mr.  
24 Lowery?

25 MR. LOWERY: Yes.



1 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

2 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

4 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

6 MR. GOFF: Yes.

7 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

8 Okay. Move down to number eight, if

9 anyone would like to come up and talk to us tonight.

10 You have five minutes and you're welcome to come up.

11 Do I see any hands? I see one.

12 MS. BRYSON: Most of you know that I

13 have a son that is a consumer at the housing in

14 Lafayette for the mentally challenged. I would just

15 like to give an update because I'm hoping my son is

16 going to get to move over back to Dade County. The

17 land is almost here. They're waiting on the money

18 from HUD to come down. Plans are to have a ground

19 breaking ceremony. We're going to send out

20 invitations. Marilyn Keller at Lookout Mountain

21 Community Services and myself are going to put this

22 together and I do want to let everyone know that

23 we're going to have to be doing some fundraisers

24 because none of the furniture -- well, I take that

25 back. I say none. The refrigerator, the stove,

1 those are furnished with the money. They have  
2 accepted a bid. It's a general contractor out in  
3 Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I can't remember the name off  
4 the top of my head.

5 But anyway, we will be needing some  
6 funds for housing for the furniture and if anybody  
7 has any ideas, feel free to get in touch with me. I  
8 just wanted to let you know that -- you know, it's  
9 getting there. I just haven't heard anything lately  
10 and since my son -- you know, Robin, bless his  
11 heart, every commission meeting I bug him to death  
12 about it. I'm just really excited about this.

13 MR. CERVELLI: How many residents will  
14 there be?

15 MS. BRYSON: As far as I know, there  
16 plans to be 12 apartments with one community room  
17 because they involve all of them. The housing in  
18 Lafayette is actually built in a circle, but because  
19 of the land restriction, this is not going to be  
20 able to be built in a circle. If any of you guys  
21 are -- you know, let me know. I'll give you  
22 directions to Lafayette, the Lafayette housing.  
23 It's really great because they're independent. My  
24 son is very fortunate. He's the only one in  
25 Lafayette that drives. They look to him to be a big

1 brother and he cooks. So they're constantly all  
2 gathering at his apartment, so I'm just so excited  
3 about this. Any information, if I can get it, I'll  
4 be happy to get it to you. We're going to do the  
5 ground breaking and time when everything is built,  
6 we're going to have an open house. So we're very  
7 excited about it. I just wanted to let the  
8 community know.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where is the  
10 land at.

11 MS. BRYSON: It is north of the ball  
12 fields because -- the four fields because it has to  
13 be on the City sewer.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Actually, it's part of the  
15 old Abercrombie farm. My mother bought that farm  
16 back, I don't know, a year ago or whatever and she  
17 sold the -- I guess it would be the HUD people, I  
18 guess, who actually -- two-and-a-half acres of that  
19 property to build this facility on it. It was  
20 really -- she was really hesitant about selling it  
21 because she really split the -- a good part of it  
22 because it's the front of it and I've never seen my  
23 mother jew down on a piece of property in my life.  
24 But that's -- she really cut the figures down there  
25 just to try to get this thing and make it work.

1 HUD is a hard group to deal with, you  
2 know. It was a lot of red tape to it. She almost  
3 -- believe me, she almost backed out five times  
4 because they really -- you know, they kept coming  
5 back, but I explained to her how important this is  
6 and it is. We actually gave them some property, the  
7 County did, I think when I was in here before, but  
8 the property, the way I understood it, was sold. It  
9 was going to cost half as much as it's going to cost  
10 to build this just to excavate it, to do the  
11 dynamite work and all that they -- but anyway, but  
12 it's where the old Abercrombie farm is at. It's  
13 just north of the four fields. It's really a  
14 grown-up area now.

15 MS. BRYSON: Is that on the same side  
16 as the four fields?

17 MR. RUMLEY: It's on the same side.  
18 It's really not noticeable now, but when they start,  
19 you'll be able to see. They've already got all  
20 their permits.

21 MS. BRYSON: Well, everyone is welcome  
22 to come to the ground breaking. We're going to try  
23 to do refreshments. I was told that I needed to try  
24 to get a tent, so that's my next project.

25 MS. THIEREN: Do you have a date on

1       that?

2               MS. BRYSON: No. We don't have a date  
3 because the land hasn't been -- the sale hasn't been  
4 completed. They're waiting on the money to come  
5 down from HUD and the grants have been there a few  
6 years. It's -- they're just waiting for the money  
7 to come down now.

8               MR. RUMLEY: They almost lost it  
9 because --

10              MS. BRYSON: I was afraid of that.

11              MR. RUMLEY: You know, in January of  
12 this year, if they had not made the move -- I didn't  
13 know this, but they -- it would have went to another  
14 county. It came close.

15              MS. BRYSON: I was really afraid of  
16 that. They've got one in Catoosa. There's one in  
17 Lafayette and then we really wanted one over here.  
18 Anyway, thank you.

19              MR. RUMLEY: Thank you.

20              MS. BRYSON: More than five minutes,  
21 I'm afraid.

22              MR. RUMLEY: No. That's really a tear  
23 bringing subject. But any other --

24              MR. LOWERY: There's a need in Dade  
25 County for it. We have a lot of young adults.

1 MR. RUMLEY: The thing about this is  
2 you don't even think about it until you go out in  
3 the county. It's a federal program, so not only  
4 Dade County, but it could be the Sand Mountain area  
5 and Lookout Mountain area, too.

6 Anyone else want to talk to us tonight?  
7 You're welcome to come up, chew us out or -- good to  
8 see Rex back there again. Rex, it's good to see  
9 you, buddy. I seen those glasses and I thought --  
10 good to see all of you, too. We appreciate you  
11 coming. We really appreciate it.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there any  
13 update on the cooler unit for the sheriff's  
14 building?

15 MR. RUMLEY: The cooler tower, they  
16 finished it. It's up and running. They pulled out  
17 last week. That's when they moved the units. It's  
18 a done deal. Which we were holding our breath  
19 there. What he's talking about is the cooler tower  
20 on our jail went down a month ago, a little over a  
21 month ago and it's actually about 33 years old and  
22 it came all to pieces. Water was going everywhere  
23 and we came real close to having to evacuate our  
24 jail and move our inmates out to other counties, but  
25 we were fortunate and we found a temporary cooling

1 tower and everything kind of went our way. It went  
2 quicker than I thought.

3 MR. LOWERY: Paid out of S.P.L.O.S.T  
4 funds, too.

5 MR. RUMLEY: That's right. We were  
6 fortunate there to be able to do that.

7 MR. LOWERY: Was that in the figure  
8 tonight?

9 MR. RUMLEY: We voted to -- it was 122  
10 something.

11 MR. LOWERY: I just wondered if it had  
12 already been taken out of that figure.

13 MR. RUMLEY: To answer your question,  
14 everything is good. Okay. Come on.

15 MR. TINKER: Do I have to come up  
16 front?

17 MR. RUMLEY: You have to. We want to  
18 know your name, rank and serial number.

19 MR. TINKER: Fred Stephens ain't here.  
20 I'll take his identity. I just wanted to thank the  
21 Commissioners for the good job you've done. I think  
22 I moved counties. You get along too well. We can  
23 agree on something. I just think you've done a real  
24 good job and I'm proud that you're holding the  
25 taxes. Taxpayers I know are proud of that. Same



1 with the School Board with the challenging times  
2 with you and everybody else, you know, it's not a  
3 time to kick up the taxes and I think you're doing a  
4 great job.

5 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate that. That's  
6 some of the good that keeps us going. You hear --  
7 in this job, you know, believe me, it's not a  
8 prestigious thing like a lot of people think. Thank  
9 goodness the good outweighs the bad and it does make  
10 you feel good when someone comes up and at least  
11 says, hey, we appreciate it.

12 But anyway, we appreciate y'all coming  
13 and if there's nothing further, I entertain a motion  
14 to adjourn the meeting. Do I hear a motion?

15 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we  
16 adjourn.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

18 MR. GOFF: Second.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

22 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

24 MR. GOFF: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

1 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes.

3  
4 END OF MEETING  
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## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE     )  
                                      )  
COUNTY OF HAMILTON    )

I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and  
Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the  
State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that  
I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had  
in the above-styled cause on the 6th day of  
August, 2009;

That the said proceedings were  
reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;  
and that the foregoing is a transcript of said  
proceedings.

This the 30th day of August, 2009.

Erin M. Flatt  
Erin M. Flatt, Notary  
in and for the State of  
Tennessee at Large.  
My commission expires  
November 7, 2010.

